

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Prices and Availability of Personal Consumer Goods and Food/Apartment Situation in Prague

25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. A TRANSMISSION OR REVE-
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

DATE DISTR. 9 FEB 54

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

Consumer Goods and Services

2. "The following prices for personal consumer goods and services were in effect in Prague in summer 1953. They are in the new currency [since reform of 30 May 53].

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in Kas.</u>
Light summer skirt	110.-
Light woman's dress	120.-
Pair of woman's summer shoes, medium quality	120.-
Pair of men's shoes, made to measure at the communal shoe enterprise, Prague	600.-
Roze, medium quality	20.-
Birch water for the hair, 200 ccm.	18.-
One jar of face cream	10.-
Tymolin toothpaste	2.-
Stora toothpaste	2.80
Small bar of toilet soap	3.60
Professional shampoo	9.40
Bottle of shampoo	.60
Comb, 18 cm	3.-
Talisman radio	980.-
Standing lamp	420.-
Woolen sweater made of cotton and wool	420.-
Solvim washing cream for hands, 1/2 kg	9.-

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION	STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI	ORR EV			
--------------	-------	------	------	-----	-----	--------	--	--	--

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 09-17-2008 BY 60321 SPB/BAW/SUB

25X1

- 2 -
CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in Kes.</u>
Quality soap, one bar	3.-
About 20 carnations (June)	5.-
Six roses	25.-
One ticket to a Communist movie	1.- to 4.-
One ticket to a Western movie	2.- to 5.-
One ticket to a newsreel	1.20

3. "The following 'foo!' items were on display in shop windows: cheese, liquor, milk products, four kinds of butter, vegetables (although very scarce, even potatoes), fruit, tinned meat, sausages, ham and coffee.

<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Price in Kes.</u>
Carrots, 1 kg	1.50
Red peppers, 1 kg	2.50
Onions, 1 kg	3.-
Garlic, 1 kg	15.-
Cucumbers, 1 kg	.70
Potatoes, 1 kg	4.-
Tomatoes, 1 kg	4.-
Radishes	.50
One cauliflower	2.50
One cabbage	.35
One kohlrabi	.25
One 'glass' (3/4 liter) of green peas	11.-

Sugar and cocoa were rarely available. Southern fruit was not available; nor were pure wool or woolen products. On Saturdays I used to see long queues for meat and tomatoes. The queues would be two-thirds women (aged 25-50) and one-third men (over 45).

25X1

4. [redacted] Czechoslovakia is importing the following foods from other countries in the Soviet Orbit:

Tinned lobsters and tinned fish	-USSR
Margarine, frozen fish	-Poland
Eggs, wine	-Bulgaria

5. "Beer is available in large quantities:

$\frac{1}{4}$ liter (70) for 70 Heller
 $\frac{1}{2}$ liter (100) for 2 Crowns.

6. "Prices for sets of furniture (cheapest type):

Bedroom	3,000.- Kes.
Kitchen	3,000.- Kes.
Living room	8,000.- Kes.

7. "Typical slogans in shopwindows:

'Nova mana - vyhodnejši stravovani!': 'New currency - better food supply.'
 'Verni odkaz. Lenina a Stalina, S. Antoninen Zapotockym vpred k socialismu':
 'Trustworthy to the legacy of Lenin and Stalin, with Antonin Zapotocky
 forwards to Socialism'.
 'Sovetsky svaz nas vzor!': 'The Soviet Union our example'.
 'So Sovetskym Svazem na vesne easy!': 'With the USSR forever!'.

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

- 3 -
CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

25X1

Employment and Salaries of Women

9. "The government has stopped the forced transfer of women to industry. It promotes volunteer transfer by women to industry, especially to the aircraft industry. Only a few women are interested in such jobs, however.

25X1

2-

25X1

The women who are in industry are paid at the same rate as the men. The women employed by the army have been ordered there by the employment office. This began in autumn 1952. These women hold regular military pay-books like other members of the army reserve. They have the same military duties as soldiers in the reserve of the regular army.

25X1

10.

plenty of women working in brigades at the Letenska Plain (Letus Square).

11. "A hospital nurse who has been employed five years receives 600 crowns per month with flat and food. A doctor employed two years gets 1300 crowns per month. A woman factory worker gets 700 crowns per month.

Apartment Situation - Prague Area

12. "A family of four is glad these days if it can obtain a flat consisting of one room and a kitchen. One-room flats for single persons are not available at all. The one-room flats are occupied by families with children.
13. "Non-communists may have to wait three years for a simple flat. The best flats go to Communist bosses. They get the flats in new buildings. Army officers and members of the State Security Corps (SMB) also enjoy priority.
14. "The 'Living Quarters Committee' is still checking on the status of private flats. It visits flats without warning. If a person has a large flat (three rooms) he can only hold on to it if he agrees to take some tenants. The 'large' flats are usually divided into two. The 'adequate' living space for a family is 20 sq. m. To change one's place of residence the approval of the Living Quarters Committee is necessary. The owner or tenant of a flat cannot be forcibly evicted if the Committee has not supplied him with a new flat.
15. "During the holidays a tenant is not obliged to report to the SMB. It is enough for him to write down the address where he will be in the House Book (domovni kniha). The SMB makes regular checks on flats (snatkove kontroly bytu). If somebody is caught in a room who has not reported and registered in the House Book, he is immediately arrested. The owner of a House Book must report to the [SMB] headquarters of the district command if he is leaving his permanent residence for longer than seven days. This report must be made in writing and must indicate the place and period of temporary residence.

Movies

16. "The Soviet and Czechoslovak Communist films are badly attended by the Czechoslovak public. Among the movies from the West, the US ones are the best sellers. Mostly younger people are in the Western movie queues."

CODES

- end -

781.12	27M
781.11	27M
781.13	27M
761.121	27M
762.2	27M
855.1	27M

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1